

THE GATEWAY

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DAN MCKECHNIE

SO FRESH, SO CLEAN Big Boi spits some rhymes at the Downtown Party Tent, located next to The Bank, on July 15. Performers at the tent run until July 24. For a review of Big Boi's album, turn to page 7.

U of A transitioning eClass software

DAN WATSON
News Writer

Students returning in the fall may notice an increased use of a Moodle-based online learning system if the University of Alberta accepts the advice of a recent report.

The Blackboard Corporation will be discontinuing support by 2013 for the Blackboard Vista Learning Management System (LMS), which the university currently uses to power eClass, the centrally-supported online system for course content, class notes, grades, and online discussion forums.

In response to that discontinuation, Vice-Provost (Information Technology) Jonathan Schaeffer established the Learning Management System Evaluation Team (LMSET) to choose a new centrally-supported LMS. Schaeffer hopes to have the transition made by the end of summer.

The LMSET report favoured Moodle over other similar technologies, including Blackboard Learn, the new LMS being developed to replace Blackboard Vista.

Schaeffer has reviewed the LMSET recommendation and said he thinks the report is fair, but is still looking for other feedback. He said he hopes the decision can be made before September.

"This is a university," he said. "And

a university has lots of people with interesting opinions. So despite the recommendation, we are still going out and consulting with people, seeing if there are any reasons that would prevent us from going with Moodle."

For instructors, Schaeffer said, the change will be significant, given that they have to navigate the new LMS to upload all of their course content. He said that for students, the technology is essentially the same and the transition won't be difficult at all.

Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) James Eastham said he thinks using Moodle as a centrally-supported LMS could be beneficial to students because it might make it easier for the U of A's Academic Information and Communication Technologies department to provide training for instructors, making them more fluent with the technology.

"Right now there isn't necessarily a lot of fluency with the WebCT program, so if we are able to get professors to attend sessions on how to learn to use Moodle, then [we will have] instructors who are better equipped to use the tools that are available."

Eastham mentioned that Moodle would be a good choice because it's open source software, so it could be more easily customized.

The LMSET report also notes that

the university's staff are already more skilled at using Moodle.

Schaeffer said it's clear that the transition to Blackboard Learn would cost less initially, but that the long-term costs will be lower with Moodle.

The report estimated a three-year total cost of operation and transition to the Blackboard Learn LMS at around \$2.7 million if hosted by the U of A, and \$1.7 million if hosted externally. The estimates for Moodle were about \$1.4 million if hosted by the U of A, and \$477,000 if hosted externally.

Many faculties across campus already use Moodle, including Arts, Engineering, Campus Saint-Jean, and Augustana, while the Faculty of Business uses Blackboard Learn.

Eastham noted that after the transition, each faculty will still be able to use its own LMS, though they will have to support it themselves if they elect not to use the centrally-supported system.

Last year, another LMS review recommended providing central support for both Blackboard Vista and Moodle, but this was re-evaluated after news that Blackboard Vista would be discontinued, and after the university's budget became a constraining factor.

Once the new software is selected, all 5,000 courses in eClass will have to be transferred to the new LMS over the next two and a half years.

Marine Sciences Centre receives sizable donation

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

A large donation will allow the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre (BMSC), a University of Alberta research facility, to use technology to bring students along for marine dives from the comfort of their classrooms.

The Inukshuk Wireless Fund, operated by Rogers Wireless and Bell Canada, has donated almost \$25,000 to the BMSC so that it can integrate live video conferencing into its "Bridging the Gap With Ocean Science" seminars — a program initiative that aims to provide curricular marine education to primary and secondary students.

Although a main goal for the centre is to provide subsidized opportunities for students at the University of Alberta and four other member universities to study the diverse Pacific Ocean ecosystem, the seminars also fulfill the public education objectives.

While the seminars were originally developed in 2006, the more recent integration of telecommunications allows for the program to

be shared with a larger range of students across Canada and the United States — without requiring students to travel to the remote facility located in Bamfield, BC.

Erika Grebeldinger, a marine science educator and scientific diver at Bamfield, explained that the program features two distinct seminars — Live Labs and Live Dives.

"The video conference as a part of the Live Labs is an interactive marine lab. It will give students the opportunity to see what we have in our lab — in addition to a grey whale skeleton, some different invertebrates and fish that we have collected from Barkley Sound or the Pacific Ocean," she said.

The Live Dives seminar provides the opportunity for students to interact with a marine scientist as they dive and explore the ocean habitat on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

"Live Dives is a sort of science safari," explained Grebeldinger. "There is an underwater naturalist and a videographer who go on the dive and interact with those individuals on the surface, at the centre, or in a student's classroom."

PLEASE SEE **MARINE** ♦ PAGE 2



Eye on the skies

Three Gateway staffers ride along as a local tornado chaser heads out south of Edmonton.

FEATURE, PAGES 8-9



Eye on the barrel

After visiting the Calgary Stampede, Evan Daum defends chuckwagons and the excitement of the sport.

SPORTS, PAGE 11

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colophon

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contributors

Ross Vincent, Tyler Dawson, Evan Daum, Grant Crawford, Dan Watson, Aaron Yeo, Vidya Sampath, Ross Lockwood, Benjamin Nay

“Can you tell me who the federal Minister of Postsecondary Education is? Trick question, because there isn't one.”

ADEN MURPHY
Vice President (External)

—Testing councillors' knowledge during his presentation on lobbying

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Simon Yackulic

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on August 3, where free food will be provided for all attendees.**Recently, Council has returned from more experimental dinner options to the old faithful, greasy pizza, which delighted nostalgic news editors. So if you're at all interested in student politics, swing by, fill your belly, and get your democracy on.*

DON'T FORGET THE FEDS

Vice President (External) Aden Murphy gave a presentation on the importance of lobbying the federal government. Murphy explained that although post-secondary education falls under provincial jurisdiction, it is important to lobby the federal government as they provide substantial funding to the provinces for postsecondary.

In response to questions about federal lobbying during the last federal election, Murphy explained that CASA previously didn't have the resources of some larger lobbying organizations. Because of this, the organization hasn't been able to make postsecondary education a

major election issue. In the next federal election, they will probably focus on getting students to vote, showing MPs that students are engaged.

LET'S TALK STRATEGY

President Nick Dehod gave a presentation on the upcoming consultations for the new SU strategic plan. The plan will lay out multi-year goals, which can be difficult to plan with new executives coming in every year. Dehod also mentioned that the sustainability audit should be completed by the end of August and that Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe was working on the SU engagement plan.

QUESTION PERIOD

Vice President (Operations & Finance) Zach Fentiman responded to a question regarding the closure of the doors in SUB facing the Van Vliet Centre. He explained that they were currently undergoing renovations and should be reopened by the end of the week, with four doors instead of the previous two.

In response to a question regarding the University of Alberta switching their webmail to Gmail, Vice President (Academic) James Eastham explained the U of A's concerns with the fact that the Gmail servers are based in the US, enabling the US government to access the email, which would bring the U of A into conflict with Canadian privacy law. According to Eastham, the U of A is still looking into the potential switch.

Funding to strengthen ocean literacy program

MARINE ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“It uses advanced communication technology. The videographer can film animals that they come across on the dive and the naturalist can discuss those creatures and answer any questions that the students may have,” Grebeldinger said.

Grebeldinger added that the program provides land-locked students with a unique opportunity to interact with marine experts and to draw physical connections with the ocean environment.

“A lot of students that come out here or are involved in the Bridging the Gap program have never seen the ocean, let alone a beach or any habitats that we have on our coastline in Canada. It is

really exciting that we can share these cool habitats and animals to people in their classrooms.”

By increasing accessibility to their public education programs, the Bamfield Centre is hoping to increase students' awareness of the fragility of marine ecosystems and encourage environmental citizenship.

“Ocean literacy is so important. It's nice that we can develop these programs and give a little glimpse of what we have in the Canadian waters.

“When students participate in the program they really start to understand how our day-to-day lives impact the ocean environment and what they can do to help the oceans.”



SUPPLIED

UNDER THE SEA Students virtually observe divers with the Live Dives program.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Matt Hirji and Aaron Yeo

As you may be aware, the Showcase TV series Blackstone is filming at the Law Building. What TV show would you like to see come to campus?

**Ariel Kangasiemi**
Science III**Aaron LeBlanc**
Masters in
Paleontology**Heather Watson**
Economics IV**Candace Serben**
Masters in Forest
Ecology

Gossip Girl... wait, maybe Top Gear. They could do a weird student car-buying episode, or racecars around campus.

I would be happy to see a reality television show come to campus. Some winter form of Survivor would be entertaining.

It would be great if The Office filmed an episode on campus. They could do an MBA class where Steve [Carell] would fail the class.

Big Bang Theory. The characters are smart and they would come to our campus. I wouldn't be as nerdy in comparison.

STUDENTS' UNION QUIPS

"THIS WHOLE MOTION WAS BROUGHT FORWARD TO LEGITIMIZE ONE COIN TOSS."
- ENGINEERING COUNCILLOR MICHAEL ROSS

General Volunteer Meeting
July 8 and July 22 at 5 p.m.
3-04 Students' Union Building

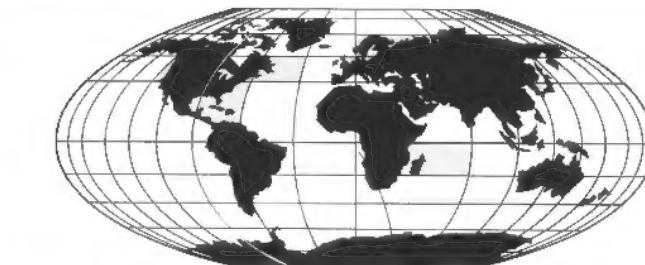
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Racecar team pulls into fourth in competition

AARON YEO
News Staff

A group of students from the University of Alberta recently claimed fourth place — their best ranking ever — in an annual racecar design competition.

The Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) West competition takes place annually in Fontana, California and the U of A FSAE student group makes a prototype racecar for competition every year.

While the 50-person team is primarily made up of mechanical engineering students the group also has business students on board to help develop a presentation on the cost-effectiveness of their car.

Daniel Vaandrager, team leader of the U of A FSAE group, explained that the competition is more than just a race, and that there are other categories that the vehicle is judged on.

“We’re ranked on the cost, the design of the car itself, a business model, and then the actual dynamic event: so acceleration, skidpad or cornering, as well as an autocross and endurance event, with fuel economy tied in to everything as well.”

The U of A FSAE team has been rising in the rankings for the past several years. After placing 11th at last year’s event, the team grabbed fourth overall out of 80 teams in the 2010 competition, ranking behind Rochester Institute of Technology, the University of Oklahoma, and the University of Washington. They consistently ranked in the top 12 for all the events, and even took the top spot for being the most cost-effective team.

While impressive at the competition, the car costs a lot of money to build; this



AARON YEO

SUCCESS ON THE SPEEDWAY The U of A group placed first in the category of cost-effectiveness and fourth overall.

year’s model came in at around \$9,500. The car isn’t just a hodgepodge of parts, but instead most of it is fabricated from scratch, adding to the challenge.

“I’d say less than 25 per cent is actual purchased parts,” Vaandrager said.

Vaandrager explained that the group fundraises every year to support the project.

“A lot of the support comes from the university, like the Engineering Students’ Project Fund. The mechanical engineering department also gives

us money,” Vaandrager said. “We have to go through a design review process with the department before they release the funding for us.”

The group receives additional funding from local businesses in the industry, like Master Flo, Rail Shop Services, and Gambit Products Ltd.

Not only does the department provide funding, but students are also permitted to submit ideas and projects for MEC E 460, a course in which small groups of five or six students

design solutions to real-life problems. This way, Vaandrager and his team, as well as other students, can get work done on the car while earning course credit.

Currently, the group is planning a design for next year’s car, which has to be finished before the fall term begins. Every year some kind of change has to be made to the internal framework of the vehicle, and the team is also considering altering the rim size.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

An unusual peak in vehicle break-ins on campus over the past few weeks has been stopped, according to Campus Security Services, as they believe they’ve caught the individual responsible for most of the incidents.

Beginning on June 30, there were 11 vehicle break-ins reported to CSS. In addition, several cars had their door locks tampered with. Items stolen included small change, valuables, and GPS units.

Inspector Al Belanger, Operations Manager for CSS, said that they apprehended a suspect on July 13.

“We’ve caught an individual that we’re quite confident is responsible for a lot of [the thefts], if not all of them. He’s a habitual offender known to Edmonton Police Service as well,” Belanger said.

The individual was picked up by CSS with the help of the public, and subsequently turned over to EPS.

“A construction worker was going back to his vehicle and he actually caught the guy in his vehicle, coming out of his vehicle with his personal property. The guy gave him some type of wild excuse,” Belanger said. “He ran away and some more construction gentlemen en route to their vehicles saw what was happening and were able to catch the guy and then called us.”

Belanger said that even though a suspect was caught, it is important to remove valuables from their vehicles.

“They’re not trying to steal the vehicles, they’re trying to take anything of carry value that’s within,” he said. “People leave just small amounts of change, carwash money, three or four bucks in change. But that’s all it takes, it’s like a shiny bauble.”

—Alex Eldridge, Senior News Editor

University of Alberta Microstore Back to School Specials



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All notebooks in Alberta require an additional \$5 Environmental Fee

Don't count out the mandatory census

DESPITE PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER'S promises about a "new era of accountability" and increased transparency in Ottawa, the Conservative government has failed to deliver. Late last month, they quietly announced a plan to scrap the long-form census and replace it with a voluntary survey. Only when a host of organizations — from the Toronto District School Board to the Province of Manitoba — registered complaints did the government offer any sort of explanation, which consisted only of vague statements about standing up for the "silent majority" and absurd warnings that the census is a symptom of a Canadian nanny state.

Distributed to roughly a fifth of Canadian households twice every decade, most university students have probably never had to fill out the long-form census. The 40-page questionnaire asks about everything from income and to disabilities. Conservatives are calling this a gross invasion of privacy; however, the data collected from the survey can't be traced back to those who complete it, and is vitally important. In an age where a huge segment of the population posts their personal information to Facebook, it is stunningly ignorant to call an official government census an "invasion of privacy."

Health authorities, school boards, provincial governments, and many other organizations use the information collected by the census to make choices about policy and funding. Calgary, for instance, uses the information to plan bus routes and target after-school programs to low-income neighbourhoods.

Industry Minister Tony Clement has told reporters that Statistics Canada officials support the decision; however, StatsCan head statistician Munir Sheikh strongly implied that his resignation yesterday was related to the government's decision regarding the 2011 census. Experts have warned that the shift to a voluntary survey will produce information that's entirely useless, and can't be compared to 140-years worth of previous census data to track and forecast trends.

There's not one good reason to scrap the mandatory census. The optional census plan requires the form be sent to a third of Canadian homes in the vain hope of collecting the same amount of data — at an extra cost of \$30 million. The U.S. considered switching to a voluntary census in 2003, but the scheme was exorbitantly expensive and was quickly abandoned. Harper and Clement are perfectly aware of this and they know that the reasoning for changing the census is paper-thin. Despite the rhetoric about privacy concerns, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner reports a grand total of three complaints in the past 10 years.

What's most galling is that despite the criticism from all corners, Harper and his lackey Clement have stood by the idea in an ill-conceived attempt to galvanize the Conservative base. Indeed, the only people who support scrapping the census seem to be far-right paranoiacs with an acute fear of an imaginary Big Brother.

It's true that the census is irritating and time-consuming, but it's necessary to ensure the continued function of a huge range of services, from postsecondary education to the construction of new roads. Harper seems more concerned with turning the census into a partisan issue than with preserving a tool essential to organizations across Canada, including his government. It's no surprise, but transparency and accountability — like the new census — are apparently optional.

ALIX KEMP
Opinion Editor

Soldier may get jail time for best intentions

"Mercy killing" is illegal under the Canadian Force's code of conduct, but in some circumstances, it's the only humane option. When an Afghan commander ordered Captain Robert Semrau to leave a wounded Taliban behind, he chose to shoot the unarmed man rather than leave him to die a slow, agonizing death.

Semrau was found not guilty of second degree murder, but faces up to five years in prison for disgraceful conduct — because he tried to do what was right.

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
Senior News Editor



ROSS VINCENT

from THE web

Queenie's less than impressed with us

RE: *(The Queen's a relic best left in the past, Simon Yackulic, July 8)*

The good queen is not amused by the implications of this article.

"QUEENIE"
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, sent via paper airplane or emailed to letters@gatewayualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, and year of study and number to be considered for publication.

Furthermore, letters featuring excessive amounts of exclamation marks, all-caps, large font sizes, or emoticons, are liable to be ridiculed mercilessly by the editorial staff and posted in a prominent place for the amusement of all who enter the Gateway office.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Partners in crime

Due to lack of knowledge of events both present and past, one of the editors of the Gateway has seen fit to condemn the field day held last Friday between the Engineers and Meds.

For his benefit it may be well to delve back into the archives of our Alma Mammy. In years gone by, in the dark past, it was customary to hold a Med day. On which day the Engineering students were wont to meander over to the Medical building to pay a friendly call, or the Meds would tromp over and stop in at the Science building for tea. In either case, it was the duty of the host to take down the the biggest firehose in the place and sprinkle the guests as they entered. Eggs, improved by keeping, were served on all such gatherings. All in all, the boys used to have such fun!

One year, however, the lads looked around, only to behold the soulful eyes of the Artsmen, and they decided that it wasn't fair to keep all the fun to themselves, so the tender-hearted Med-Engineers invited the bystanders to join in. Thinking there should be some entrance fee, a charge of one pair of pants per Artsman was levied. Which, in all fairness, was quite a reasonable charge.

The authorities decided the fee was too high, and made the Med-Engineers return the pants. Of course, being deprived of their legitimate business, the lads figured there wasn't any future in the pants business, as they couldn't cover bare expenses, and so college spirit in the University has been hibernating.

This year the first class to graduate from the University without initiation will take their leave. No excitement has disturbed their diligent search for learning. Only once has the latent desire for adventure come near the surface, in Pembina, when the lights went out at the Pembina Prance.

For four years the inhibitions of inaction and restriction have been sufficient to restrain the animal man. For four years we have acted like gentlemen. For four years we have been accused of keeping college spirit in a bottle.

Now that the bonds that held our passions are broken, we've shown our college spirit, but have received such a rebuff from the Gateway that our weary souls' needs just go away to some corner and perish. Ah! woe to us misunderstood and forlorn.

Engineeringly,

C. HURST
November 20, 1936

Advice for the new year

This is my third year at the University and I've found that there are people

in my faculty that I have never seen before. Yes, I know this is an extremely large campus — but you would think I would at least recognize these people in some small way.

I talked to one of these "ghost students" the other day and asked her where the hell she'd been the last three years. The answer I received was quite surprising, especially for a third-year student: "Well, I don't know really ... I just kind of go to class and then I go home." We proceeded to go for a coffee and a chat and I think that I may have made a stranger into a friend.

This brings me to the recommendation — don't just go to class — go to university! Yes, we are here for an education, I have no dispute with that; it should be our number-one priority. But if we are miserable doing it and leave university disappointed with the experience, what have we really learned? Nothing. So get out there and meet someone, have some fun. Don't be a stranger.

Now you can read this and either think about it or tell me to get stuffed ... it's your choice. I would just like to leave you with some Walt Whitman:

Stranger, if passing meet me and desire to speak to me, why should you not speak to me?

And why should I not speak to you?

GAVIN S. MILLS
October 19, 1993

Beck U sure to disappoint

TV pundit's online university can't offer benefits of a real degree



SIMON
YACKULIC

Even if you don't watch Fox News, you've still probably heard of right-wing pundit and TV shock jock Glenn Beck. He was instrumental in the formation of the right-wing American Tea Party movement, which has so far failed at its main goal of stopping Obama's health-care reform.

However, Beck has recently shown that he has a broader palate of interests besides merely stirring the pot against health care and liberals in general. Beck, who once briefly attended Yale before dropping out, has recently made headlines and raised scholarly eyebrows at institutes of higher learning by founding Beck University, an online "school" that promises to teach about the American values of faith, hope and charity.

"I don't know when we started devaluing people who are 'self-educated,'" said Beck in an introduction to the program. "I know people that are going to college, getting their doctorate in history, who [...] don't even really know history, but they know what history professors want to be taught — but that is so unbelievably incomplete."

To attend Beck University, you need to sign up for "Insider Extreme," a Glenn Beck fan club that costs \$6.26 US per month. Beck U is, at its core, a publicity stunt to gain subscribers for Insider Extreme. But since Beck has decided to refer to his monster as a "university," it's fair to judge its merits as an institution on the same scale by which we judge our own university.

Beck claims that at other institutions, students only learn the viewpoints of their professors. He's right, but the only difference at Beck

University is that you will only learn what Glenn Beck wants to teach you, whereas at the U of A, President Indira Samarasekera doesn't determine the syllabi of our courses. The *raison d'être* for universities is to provide a space for open debate and the sharing of ideas, something that's plainly never been of interest to Beck.

Perhaps an online, celebrity-founded initiative could morph into such a hub of learning — but so far, the only courses currently offered are Faith 101, Hope 101, and Charity 101, with 102 and 103-level classes coming soon. Beck University isn't quite broad enough in its outlook to really claim the same prestige as a real centre of learning.

The *raison d'être* for universities is to provide a space for open debate and the sharing of ideas, something that's plainly never been of interest to Beck.

Just because Beck offers a slanted opinion on news doesn't qualify him to certify educators at an online "university." Any amount of money is a rip-off paid to a fake university, though it's hard to feel sympathy for anyone who would sign up to watch this crap month after month.

While many of us have gripes about the U of A, at least the degree we get at the end provides recognition that we're stable enough to stick with something for at least four years. We have studied under professionals who have made the study of different fields of knowledge their life's work. Society values degrees enough that putting effort into obtaining them helps your social standing and future career goals. Oddly, society hasn't yet attached that sort of respect to an individual solely for spending a few hours a week watching YouTube videos.

Debate about nomination of new Governor General is skin deep



TYLER
DAWSON

On July 8, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Michaëlle Jean's successor to the Governor General's office. David Johnston is many things: a member of the Order of Canada, a legal scholar of some repute, and previously the President of Waterloo University. However, above these accomplishments that make him an outstanding candidate for the position, two things have taken precedence in the media's coverage: gender and race.

In the interest of full disclosure, I have a small stake in this issue. I plan on having a long career as a white dude, with a chunk of it spent as an old white dude — a triple threat combo. While I'm sure many feel my majority status disqualifies me from commenting, I think there's an important point to be made.

It's certainly true that racism still exists in Canada. It's not the old-fashioned, '60s-America style of racism that leaps to mind; there are no segregated lunch counters, buses, or schools. However, there is still inequality; for example, the gulf in wages between white men and, well, everyone else. Despite our general tolerance of various cultures in Canadian society, discrimination continues to be a problem, and there are even a few neo-Nazi types that pop up once in a while.

But the appointment of David Johnston as Governor General isn't a sign of discrimination. It's not the manifestation of an "old boys club" in Ottawa, or a subtle shot at equality from a Conservative Prime Minister. It's the appointment of a highly qualified candidate, shortlisted

by a council of six people who polled more than 200 politicians and civic leaders to select potential nominees — and he *happens* to be a white man.

It's disappointing then that political commentators from the left-leaning portion of the blogosphere have latched onto Mr. Johnston's race and gender as their primary grounds for criticism. A few have pointed to the lack of explanation for why he prevented the Oliphant Commission from investigating how money from Airbus commissions ended up in envelopes given to former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, which is still barely out of the realms of conspiracy theory. The fact remains that Johnston is extremely eligible for the job — there isn't really a whole lot that would disqualify him.

The conversation has thus centred on sex and skin colour, although if the candidate were not a white man, those topics would be off limits for criticism. If I bashed Michaëlle Jean for being a woman, or for being of a non-white ethnicity, the response would be justifiable outrage. And yet this fashionable anti-male, anti-white discrimination goes unaddressed.

Not everything should be discussed in terms of ethnicity or gender. There are certainly scenarios where real discrimination needs to be addressed, but in this case, nothing significant is added to the conversation about the new Governor General when we obsess over his sex or the colour of his skin.

Yes, there is still inequality, but it does no good to keep talking in racial and gender-based terms that push us apart and breed resentment in situations where real discrimination has not occurred. Nobody can control their skin colour or sex. What we can control, however, is how we respond to presumed racial, ethnic, and gender issues. We need to ditch prehistoric dialogues that drive us apart, and embrace our similarities, both as humans and Canadians.

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To dream is perchance to see another Nolan blockbuster

filmreview

Inception

Directed by Christopher Nolan
Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and Ellen Page
Now Playing

EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Whether or not film projected onto a screen is the most tangible example of dreams illustrated in real life, the comparison shouldn't be considered too much of a stretch. For a director, in viewing his own work he literally finds himself in the theatre of the mind — his own mind or what he envisioned his picture to represent. For the Joel Schumachers and Michael Bays of Hollywood, these issues are nonexistent, but for Christopher Nolan, his infatuation with the mind has become so blatant, that the possibility of him being a tortured artist along the lines of Edgar Allan Poe seems increasingly likely.

Following the *Dark Knight*, which turned out to be not only a success at the box office but was critically acclaimed as well, Nolan offers a mostly new spin on themes he's previously visited — dreams and memory. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Dominic Cobb, an "extractor" — someone who specializes in retrieving secrets from his targets' minds — who exists in a unexplained near-future where minds are accessible to those who have the necessary skills



and technology.

Cobb's sole desire is to see his children after being forced to flee the country after he's suspected of killing his wife Mal (Marion Cotillard). To return, he must make a deal with an Asian businessman (Ken Watanabe) to plant a false memory — the titular "inception" — in the mind of a young heir (Cillian Murphy) to an ambiguously evil global empire. Needless to say, things become far more complicated, as dreams become layered on top of other dreams, on top of other dreams, while space and time are toyed with to ridiculous and

mostly captivating ends.

The fact that the audience knows nothing more than what Nolan intended illustrates how blatantly focused this film is. As an auteur, Nolan's style has always poured from every crevice of every shot, though sometimes at the expense of some of the actors. For example, the first 20 minutes of *Inception* are almost nauseatingly expository. Times where the plot takes a backseat to charming character moments, such as when co-stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Canadian sweetheart Ellen Page share a kiss to distract suspicious

dream persons, demonstrate that it can be done well. But such scenes are too rarely used, sacrificed to more sequences involving car chases and explosions.

Ultimately, there's something very bittersweet about saying that *Inception* was, unsurprisingly, an exceptional and intelligent piece of increasingly precise filmmaking by Nolan, who wrote, produced, and directed the film. His usually creative mind lends itself to crafting stories on the screen, and he's at his most obsessive here. He weaves webs within webs of tangled plot lines, where

thinking about things in a deeper sense becomes a literal metaphor for the whole viewing experience — perhaps a metaphor for the delicate interplay between actor and observer. But that seems almost unnecessarily philosophical for a film that remains a perfectly legitimate heist and action flick while at the same time remaining emotionally and intellectually deep.

For a more in-depth and spoiler-heavy discussion of *Inception*, check out this Friday's edition of *V is For Validation*, the Gateway's newest and sexiest film review podcast.

Iceland, Dylan inspirations for Vollebekk

musicpreview

Leif Vollebekk

With Erin Ross, Erin Mulcair, and Landon R. Coleman
Friday, July 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Haven Social Club (15120 Stony Plain Road)
\$10 at Yeglive.ca or at the door

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

Geography is often a source of creative inspiration. For Leif Vollebekk, a Montreal-based singer-songwriter, three distinct geographical areas have become his musical muses: Ottawa, Montreal, and — perhaps most fittingly, considering it has a relatively high ratio of esteemed bands per capita — Iceland.

In 2005, while pursuing a degree in continental philosophy, Vollebekk, who was raised in Ottawa, took a year to study abroad in Reykjavík, Iceland. While there, he developed a revitalized sense of creativity and began to record his first album, later titled *Inland*. Re-released by Nevado Records in January of this year, it was heavily shaped by Vollebekk's experiences in Iceland.

"Being in a different country, your sensory perceptions are heightened and everything is that much more powerful," Vollebekk explains. "It's kind of like being on some sort of drug. Everything is more intense — and you're not sure whether it's

because you're travelling or if it's your surroundings. So it's tricky; I wrote half the record when I was in Iceland and the other half when I was back home, but I definitely would not have made the same record had I not gone to Iceland."

While on the geothermically active island, Vollebekk revelled in the remoteness of the country and the time spent away from home afforded him the opportunity to live in comfortable depravity — something that galvanized his songwriting.

"I think that the people who have been accused of copying the best are sadly the most original. There's no bigger copycat than Bob Dylan, but at the same time, he's so damn original."

LEIF VOLLEBEKK

"I don't like too much choice. I think that there's too much of that in the world. So I wanted to go somewhere that was isolated and actually see the area. I started writing a lot more when I was in Iceland. I had more free time and that was a good thing. I didn't have all these normal, mundane things tying me down. It was kind of nice to have my brain more switched on and

active than it had been before."

Immediately evident on *Inland* is the breadth of genres that Vollebekk explores on the album. It uses the genres of the ambient, which originate from his nomadic experiences living in Canada, but especially Iceland.

"Sigur Rós came out with *Takk...* when I was in Iceland and I listened to that album a lot when I was traveling in [Reykjavík]. It's a huge album for me. *Takk...* is pretty wonderful and it really does it all," he says.

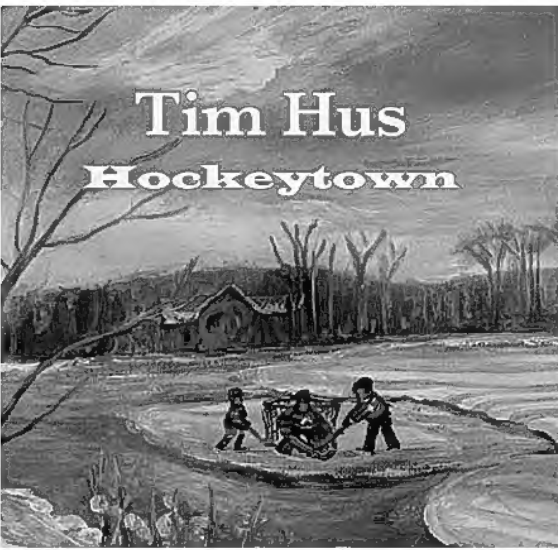
In addition to his more atmospheric stylings, *Inland* is influenced by the works of Bob Dylan. Vollebekk's sound is often compared to Dylan, who he started listening to after moving to Montreal in 2006, though he considers the musical legend to be more of an influence than a template for his own sound.

"I just started listening to Bob Dylan in 2006; I just sort of ate that up," he says. "You've got a lot of listening to do if you want to like Dylan. It's mostly really good [...] so you're content to just know a few songs. But with Dylan it's not really satisfying to just know 'Mr. Tambourine Man' because that whole album has a whole backstory and it's so great. So, I spent a lot of time listening to Bob Dylan albums while creating my own record."

Vollebekk continues, "I think that the people who have been accused of copying the best are sadly the most original. There's no bigger copycat than Bob Dylan, but at the same time, he's so damn original."



SUPPLIED: CAROLINE DESILETS



SIMON YACKULIC
Deputy News Editor

The Plan: Two Canadian albums fight for musical supremacy of the great white north (appropriately during the more sensible summer months). Alberta-based Tim Hus and his prairie crew are taking on Brian Dunn's gang from Ontario. Who will emerge triumphant and get in the last "eh?"

Most Self-Aware

Tim Hus: With a setlist that includes "Saskatchewan Son-Of-A-Gun" and "Red River Flood," Hus realizes that he's peddling cheap hick lullabies and doesn't really care. On the former Hus croons, "the prairie is a place / where you can watch your dog run away for days." Not original by any stretch, but I think Hus finds some humour in embracing western stereotypes.

Brian Dunn: While being terribly emotional, Dunn doesn't appear to be doing so with any sense of irony. He's just simply very, very sad, and it shows throughout his miserable and depressing album.

Point: Hus

Most Badass Song Title

Hus: "Sasquatch Hunter." The only shock about this title is that no Canadian death metal band has already claimed it as a name for themselves. The Sasquatch Hunters would sell

albumbattle

VS

Tim Hus
Hometown
Stony Plain Records

Brian Dunn
Examining the Fallout
Cosmic Daves' Record Label



thousands of records on the power of their kick-ass moniker alone.

Dunn: "Listening To Myself Die." Kind of by-the-numbers as far as emo songs go, "Listening to Myself Die" is still a more thrilling prospect than the other downers like "Joy That Kills" (a song that's literally a killjoy) and "Worry," which was what I was planning on doing later, but I guess since I'm listening to this song, I might as well start feeling awful.

Point: Hus.

Most Annoying Song

Hus: None.

Dunn: I'm going to skip right to Dunn here, as all of his tracks are terrible buzz killers. "Listening To Myself Die" is fairly apt; three minutes of excruciating off-key piano riffs played over Dunn relenting about how much his life sucks.

Point: Dunn. This point is not one widely sought after, and should accepted only with great shame.

Best Cover Art

Hus: The cover is what you'd expect it to be: a painting of three kids playing hockey on a winter pond. The title *Hometown* is helpfully written in large white letters, letting the listener know exactly what they're about to hear. If you still weren't sure what was contained on the disc, inside the cover are a few photos of Tim Hus playing

an acoustic guitar. Simple, practical, and honest design.

Dunn: Since the cover has no label on it, Dunn helpfully chose a photo to represent his inner emotions — a dark cloud over a gloomy building with some light just barely shining through. Or is that supposed to represent a sunny sky being engulfed by darkness? It really doesn't matter.

Point: Hus.

Worst Lyrics

Hus: "She's a tailgate party queen / the roughest rider you've ever seen."

Dunn: "I've had a pretty hard life / I can't remember / I've been just drunk all the time."

Point: Hus. His bad lyrics are kind of funny, even when they're lame. Dunn's lyrics are just depressing.

And The Winner is...

Tim Hus isn't going to appeal to everyone, and his "gee shucks" Canadian-themed country music starts to grate on the nerves pretty quickly. Sure, there's nothing especially original about his tunes, and it sounds and reads like any other patriotic folk album from the last 50 years. That said, it makes for passable background study music, and when compared to Brian Dunn — whose album will leave you with a black and empty pit in the bottom of your soul — Hus is the clear standout and the Canadian victor.



albumreview

Big Boi
Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty
Def Jam Recordings

ASHLEIGH BROWN
Bizness Manager

Following a string of classic albums that established Outkast as one of hip-hop's great duos, it's been a long, slow ride for their fans since the genre-bending genius of *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below* conquered the pop world in 2003. Since then, Outkast has been all but defunct, save for their barely-watched *Idlewild* film and its accompanying soundtrack.

In that sense, Big Boi's solo album seemingly comes out of nowhere to enter the hip-hop hall of fame. It's a piss-in-the-wind good time, with the

instant classic "Shutterbugg" shooting its hook straight through your mind, alongside the symphonic terrorism that is "General Patton," bludgeoning his lyrical points even further home. From the truth-touting "Fo Yo Sorrows," featuring funk legend George Clinton, to the dangerously dark and sexy "Tangerine" and the raise-your-hands-up good times of "Shine Blockas," almost every track on this album deserves some kind of shout-out.

With such a glorious history and

lengthy absence, you can hardly blame a girl for harbouring high expectations for Big Boi's solo debut. So even though *Sir Lucious* had me blowin' my smoke in the air as if no one was standin' there, it's hard to shrug off the feeling that something was missing — and his name is Andre 3000, as difficult as that is to admit.

But once I got over my Outkast hangover, I was able to reap this album's many rewards, including the chance to hear a respected artist define himself on his own terms for the first time in seven years. If Big Boi and Andre's two collaborative tracks originally slated for *Sir Lucious* hadn't been blocked by label disputes, Andre would have been the proud progenitor of some of the best verses of the album. But if absence makes the heart grow fonder, *Sir Lucious* makes for one hell of a good tease.



albumreview

Wolf Parade
Expo 86
Sub Pop

GRANT CRAWFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Wolf Parade have the potential to be the greatest indie band out there. This was proven on their sublime 2005 debut *Apologies to the Queen Mary*, where co-frontmen Dan Boeckner and Spencer Krug spent the album frantically trading songs, ideas, and sounds. Since then, Wolf Parade has become the heart of a vast morass of side projects which have only cemented the reputations of Krug and Boeckner as two supremely talented songwriters.

Expo 86 represents Wolf Parade's return to a decidedly more rocking

sound after their sprawling and at times brilliant sophomore effort *At Mount Zoomer*. The first song on *Expo 86* begins suddenly with Krug's distinctive lyrics delivered like a battle cry over a thin layer of backing drums. After this, the album swells with the Boeckner-led "Palm Road." In truth, the whole album sounds a little more influenced by Boeckner rather than Krug, who's known to be the more experimental partner of the group Boeckner has more of an accessible pop sound. While

Boeckner yells, Krug yelps.

At the heart of Wolf Parade's sound is the contrast between their deliveries. The strength of *Apologies* was its relentless shifts between two styles, somehow sounding always on the verge of collapse while still managing to push forward with unexpected twists and turns. With *Expo 86*, the sound of Wolf Parade has become a little incestuous. Each frontman has freely pursued their eccentricities in their solo projects, resulting in Wolf Parade becoming more singular. Krug has taken to imitating Boeckner and Boeckner to imitating Krug. True, there are few songwriters worth imitating, but it has taken away much of the ebb and flow from the band.

The last three songs of the album are relentless and great, but not brilliant, and when a band with this much potential fails to achieve some of their promised brilliance, it's easy to wonder what could have been.

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On the Chase →

written by lance mudryk
and simon yackulic
photos by aaron yeo

With the unpredictability of weather, sometimes it's hard to tell who's chasing whom.

The tornado is the granddaddy of the storm-chasing world, the feather in the cap of both amateur and professional storm enthusiasts. And catching a glimpse of the F5, the strongest tornado classification, is the most sought-after prize.

When looking at all tornado events in North America since 1999, the total that received that title could be counted on a single hand. It may seem more likely to be struck by lightning than see an F5 producing 400 km/h winds, but if you go out of your way to chase storms, you just might find yourself in the presence of a giant — like local storm-enthusiast Justin Hobson, who stared down one of the monsters and walked away from the experience.

In 2007, the then 23-year-old atmospheric science student found himself chasing Canada's largest and first official F5 tornado through Elie, Manitoba, a town 30 kilometres west of Winnipeg. Even though he had started his storm chasing career in 2003, and began taking it more seriously in 2005, it wasn't until the Elie F5 twister that he had a chance to see one with his own eyes. Since then, his resumé has beefed up quite a bit — having chased and photographed many tornadoes in the US and Canada, Hobson has even sold his videos to the Discovery Channel.

"[The Elie tornado] actually destroyed four houses and I was able to watch it as it pulled the roofs off houses. There were power flashes from it hitting power lines, so it was pretty destructive. Before that, it was in the field for a long time and it wasn't doing very much, but once it started interacting with the structures you could see how violent it was. It was plucking out trees like they were carrots out of a garden. It was pretty intense."

Storm-chasing fever has exploded across the American Midwest. Thanks to TV shows on Discovery Channel and TLC exploring the subject — such as *Storm Chasers* — hundreds of

people are driving from all across North America for the chance to capture a video that could end up paying off.

Even without the cash incentives, people have grown to love the thrill and fun that comes with the chase. From scientific expedition to recreational endeavour, storm chasing holds many charms for enthusiasts.

Hobson knows the importance of a growing community, but he's seen firsthand how the burgeoning popularity has affected storm chas-

who take it seriously."

Even with the right preparation, things can turn dangerous. In May 2008, Hobson's crew forgot to factor in storm motion when chasing a turbulent weather system through Kansas.

"It was moving faster than we thought. We saw the wall cloud developing and slowly moving towards us, but it was actually moving pretty quickly, so it actually developed. We got in our vehicles and we took a wrong turn and a tornado actually formed. We got broadsided by it

work for Environment Canada. Although Alberta still gets its share of crazy weather, with 145 violent storms taking place in the past century, the location is far more limiting than Manitoba.

"In Alberta you're really limited to only here and whatever's in your driving distance in Saskatchewan for a day chase. South of here's Montana, and they don't have much for storms down there [...] In Manitoba, there's more potential for tornadoes, and it's also closer to the States, — North Dakota, South Dakota, and beyond."

But Alberta is known for its unpredictable and potentially violent weather. The province has an average of about 12 tornadoes per year, according to Environment Canada's Warning Preparedness Meteorologist Dan Kulak, who works out of Edmonton.

That's more than the seven to eight that form in Manitoba, but with the lower population and infrastructure density, they form more often where no damage will be done.

"In order to classify a tornado, it has to do some damage. [The F scale] is essentially a damage scale. In this area, we see all these trees blown down, but that could be from an F3 or an F1," said Kulak.

More often, intense weather in the province takes the form of wind storms or hail. Two wind storms caused havoc last summer, one that wreaked damage in Edmonton last July and another that blew down the main stage at the Big Valley Jamboree last August, killing one person.

With the increase in rain this year, Hobson's confident that 2010 will be a great season for Alberta. "[The province] gets good storms when it's dry, so just imagine with moisture. Moisture is a great fuel source for storms."

[The Elie tornado] actually destroyed four houses and I was able to watch it as it pulled the roofs off houses. There were power flashes from it hitting power lines, so it was pretty destructive.

-Justin Hobson

ing for the worst. Driving across a country road during a recent trip, he marveled at the number of cars on what would otherwise be a deserted dirt strip.

"On a normal day, this road would have no traffic; a truck hauling cattle might be the only thing that whole day. But when there's a storm in the area, that road is gridlocked. It's a mud road and there are SUVs, vans, and cars that you know shouldn't be on it because they could get stuck, but they don't care. The thing is, if that person gets stuck again, what about everyone behind them? They have to start driving in the ditch. There are videos out circulating showing careless storm chasers and it makes us look bad

as it was developing," said Hobson.

An anemometer, used to measure wind speed, was on the roof of the SUV when the tornado hit them. Before it stopped recording, it measured 176 km/h winds. Although Hobson isn't sure how strong the tornado was exactly, it was at least an F1. They followed the tornado north and it got stronger, destroying an airport and a campground.

"We saw pictures later that other people took of the tornado forming, where you could see our car's headlights in the same photo. [...] Ever since then, we knew we didn't want to be *that* close."

In 2009, Hobson moved to Edmonton to





Normally, I try to have someone in the background, just sitting there and watching [the storm radar], but hey, we don't need to live.

-Wes Miller



With the Gateway's newfound interest in storm chasing, staff members decided to try it out for themselves. On June 29, 2010 the group departed alongside amateur storm chaser Wes Miller, who acted as the leader and guide for the trip.

5:40p.m.

After picking up Miller, we headed west out of the city towards an ominous and growing thunderstorm. While Miller explained the basic procedure of storm chasing, we checked weather updates on Environment Canada's website which — to our disappointment — informed us that the tornado warning had been lifted for the area directly to the west of the city. Our guide, however, had checked the radar before embarking with us and assured the group that another edge of the storm was gaining momentum. Our first target would be the area where the storm was picking up just outside Edmonton, near the town of Devon.

The basic concept of the chase is to stay ahead of the storm and follow the ongoing development around its edges while hoping to catch sight of the holy grail of storm chasing: a forming tornado. The trick is to accomplish this without getting stuck in a damaging hailstorm, or getting caught in heavy rain, both of which make it tough to observe the tumultuous weather system. The most unlikely hazard, of course, is getting caught in the tornado itself. But Miller assuaged any worries we had at this point in the expedition.

"We'll just hope to see something and not get killed, because I'm not a professional yet," Miller explained. He had graduated from the U of A with a Bachelor's of Science with specialization in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and is set to begin a new job with Environment Canada as a meteorologist in September.

6:16p.m.

We found ourselves north of Devon, heading south towards the gathering clouds. As our photographer struggled to get his iPhone to update us with the current weather map, Miller explained his usual setup for a chase. While some chasers might check a forecast and then simply head out after the storm, the weather can change rapidly enough that it's preferable to have a reliable system on hand that can follow the storm's formation and progression. Ideally, Miller said it's useful to have an experienced meteorologist watch an Environment Canada radar map at home and send updates to the chase car, allowing those on the road to keep a close eye on the task at hand.

Sometimes, Miller said he would partner with another meteorologist and each would alternate on different chases as storm chaser and weather spotter.

"Normally, I try to have someone in the background, just sitting there and watching [the storm radar]," Miller explained. "But hey, we don't need to live."

6:24p.m.

Having finally reached the south end of Devon, our work had paid off. As we watched, the storm started twisting and expanding towards the ground.

"I'm comparing it to super cells, which I've only seen in textbooks," Miller noted, pointing towards a particularly dark and turbulent patch, "That area there — first it starts to rotate, and then you might see a funnel cloud, and then you want to get out of there. Because I can see to the right, that's all hail."

Cruising south down the highway, the storm had caught up to us. The entire left side of the car was being pelted with rain as we leaned out the windows to try to get a glimpse of what we convinced ourselves was a rapidly forming twister.

7:31p.m.

"Once in a while it starts turning, then stops. Every time I see it rotate, it gets my hopes up, then it stops," Miller reflected, catching the general mood inside the chase vehicle.

Despite the intense cloud activity we had seen earlier, the storm eventually calmed down and no tornado was unleashed. On the other hand, lightning struck startlingly close to our car as we raced past Wetaskiwin to outrun the storm.

The dark clouds, however, began to drift more distant and the time between the lightning flash and accompanying thunderclap grew longer and more pronounced. With our map and our radar updates, we stayed between the storm — which was approaching from the southwest — and Edmonton, skirting it as it passed us heading northeast, letting us tail the end of the storm. We had ended up about 60 kilometres southeast of the city.

8:41p.m.

The storm had clearly moved far to the north of us, and we were forced to turn around when we took a side road that had become impassable due to a downed tree. The sun was breaking through the clouds, highlighting the hordes of mosquitoes that decided to ambush our attempt to remove the log. After the excitement and anticipation that had sustained the hunt for the last three hours, we accepted that almost getting shocked by a lightning strike was going to have to quench our thirst for extreme weather and began heading home.



MATT HIRJI

Gridiron Bears coach utilizes experience on the sidelines

Entering his 10th season with the clipboard, Jerry Friesen reflects on his career as a student-athlete, CFL linebacker, and CIS leader

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

When Jerry Friesen steps onto Foote Field for the Gridiron Bears home opener this September, he will have emphasized four key points to his players in the locker room — teamwork, discipline, competitiveness, and work ethic.

Friesen has been head coach of the Bears for the last nine seasons. Heading into the end of his first decade, he will be looking to a raft of both new recruits and returning veterans to lead the team both academically and athletically.

“We want to maximize the potential of all our players, on and off the turf. We want to recruit the best players that fit into our environment here, and we want to push them. We want to find out where their ceiling is in relation to the football field and also in the classroom,” Friesen said.

“There will be some players that will never end up being an All-Canadian, and all of our students won’t become Masters students — but we want to find out how many we can push to that extent. We want to find out where the top end is for each of our 80 players.”

Friesen’s philosophy as a head coach stems from his time spent playing football and his experiences at different levels of the game in a variety of capacities — as a player and defensive co-ordinator for the University of Saskatchewan and his professional tenure as a linebacker in the Canadian Football League with the Montreal Alouettes and Saskatchewan Roughriders garnering two Grey Cup appearances.

“My coaching philosophy stems from a combination of each one of the segments of my career. My college career, my college coaches and my professional coaches all influence the way that I lead my team. When I took the job for the Bears, I reflected on my past experiences and used that

to figure out what I wanted to be implemented here in Edmonton.”

“I learned a lot from the different styles of coaches that I had throughout my CFL experience,” Friesen said. “When I was playing for the Roughriders, there were a lot of new coaches coming in and out. When a new coach came in, I learned a lot about the different styles of coaching, the way of handling players. Those experiences will always be there, and that’s what gives you the foundation. I learned from that and incorporated it into my head coaching style.”

Friesen, who is known for his attention to detail and time spent preparing for each game, cites his relationship with Golden Bears alumni and U of S head coach Val Schneider as a primary influence on his own management style — an individual who he both played for as a student athlete and later worked with as a defensive co-ordinator.

“[Schneider] is very demanding and very detailed. My coaching philosophy comes from me as a player sitting down with him and going over all the details before we took the field. Later on, when I was coaching with him, all the details about how to prepare the players for the game were very important to us. He taught me that you can always get better.”

Despite his football experience, taking the whistle for the Golden Bears football squad has posed some unique challenges. During Friesen’s

first two years as head coach, the Bears only tallied three wins winning a meager 19 per cent of their games

Taking the field for the first time as a head coach was a humbling experience. However, recalling his first game leading the sidelines, Friesen remembers the moment with humour.

“I was scared out of my wits. At that point in time, I was just really hoping that I had 12 guys on the field.”

It was only until Friesen started to understand the chemistry and internal dynamics of

the Golden Bears football squad that he started to experience success. In 2004, the Gridiron Bears completed a successful 7-1 season, falling short against Friesen’s alma mater at the Canada West Finals.

Entering his 10th season with the Golden Bears, Jerry Friesen has gained humil-

ity towards challenges facing a CIS head coach. However, despite the challenges, he maintains an optimistic exuberance in every huddle — cherishing each season as a chance to improve each of his players lives.

“When you have an eight-game season, it’s short and intense. I think that the biggest challenges as a CIS football coach are the demands in regards to time and priorities,” Friesen said. “With the challenges of raising money to run the program and scholarships in addition to community development — those are

all things that don’t have anything to do with sitting down with your players and developing your players. It’s a challenge to find the time”

“I’ve got 80 players that I have the opportunity to win a championship with. I’ve got to find a way to get those players happy and in the right position. Every year is a new challenge — that’s what really motivates me.”



JERRY FRIESEN
HEAD COACH BEARS FOOTBALL

Chuckwagon races must barrel on

Recent tragedies at the Calgary Stampede highlight the dangers of the sport, but chucks bridge the urban-rural divide and embrace the western way of life



EVAN
DAUM

Sports
Commentary

There are plenty of things in history that have come and thankfully gone, as progress continues to steamroll its way forward. The latest unfortunate target sitting on some peoples chopping block in the name of progress comes with wooden spokes and a quartet of horses: chuckwagon racing.

If you followed the Calgary Stampede, I'm sure you've heard about the deaths of half a dozen horses over the course of the 10-day event, including four chuckwagon horses — none of which came as a result of accidents on the track.

While the deaths of those animals are tragic and regrettable, they shouldn't spell the end of a sport steeped in cultural significance. Call me a redneck, a hillbilly, whatever you want, but I'm sticking to my guns with my love of chuckwagon racing, despite the sport's recent negative press.

Animal rights activists are clamouring to have the sport banned, and along with other rodeo events like calf roping, activists are hoping to send chucks the way of the gladiator, so they can take their place on the scrap heap of sports history.

Of course the calls for chuckwagon

racing to be canned aren't simply a direct result of the tragedies at the latest edition of the Calgary Stampede. For those who view the sport as barbaric, and little more than torture for the entertainment of all of us cowboy bumpkins out there, their cries for chuckwagon racing to be kicked to the curb have just once again been highlighted by the events that unfolded at the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth.

Call me a redneck, a hillbilly, whatever you want, but I'm sticking to my guns with my love of chuckwagon racing, despite the sport's recent negative press.

I'm not going to pretend that chuckwagon racing is in my blood, that it's my livelihood, or my first true love. I've spent the majority of my life living as an urbanite. That doesn't mean, however, that I am completely ignorant to what chuckwagon racing means to those who have grown up with the sport. For many, it is a way of life, and is their first true love.

It's true that simply justifying the existence of something based on the fact that it is steeped in tradition isn't enough to rationalize the continuation of something when it's truly cruel or backwards.

But while Chuckwagon racing undoubtedly comes with risk, to call it an overly cruel or gratuitous exhibition of violence for the sake of entertainment would be a stretch.

The risk of injury for both the driver and horses is inevitable — chuckwagon racing is after all called the half-mile of hell. That shouldn't detract from the value of the sport.

The majority of horses that blister around the barrels at the races are cast off thoroughbreds from horse tracks where they can no longer compete. Those horses, in many respects, are being given a second chance, and are treated to the best care possible, because after all, the point of chuckwagon racing is to win, and you're not going to do that with horses that aren't at their best.

Of course, nothing is cut and dry, but for the most part the chuckwagon debate has been divided down urban-rural lines, with the majority of the calls for the sport to be terminated coming from the ivory towers of city slickers.

The debate around chuckwagon races highlights a growing disconnect between urban and rural communities. That continuing polarization between urban and rural populations needs to be bridged, and chuckwagon racing's excitement provides the perfect opportunity to bring city folk and their small-town friends together.

Here's to hoping the bright lights of Calgary continue to play host to cowboys and cowgirls giving them the chance to not only showcase their rural way of life — one barrel turn at a time.

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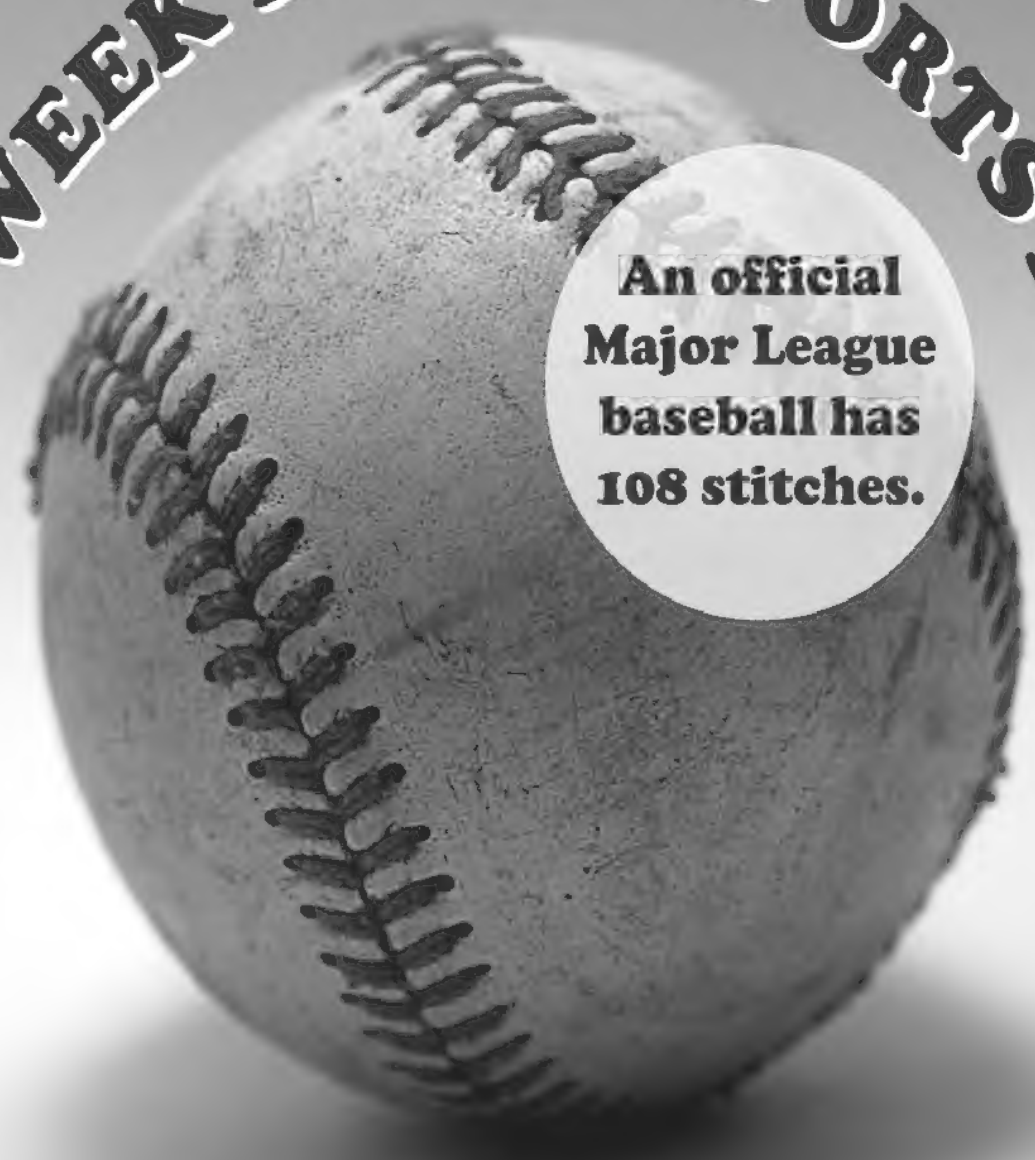
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NEW INTER-DISCIPLINARY COURSE
School of Energy and the Environment
INT D 561: Energy: Physics, Economics and Society

The purpose of this course is to offer an integrated interdisciplinary approach to alternative energy generation at a graduate level. The course is divided into three modules as follows:

- 1. The science of modern techniques for power generation with focus on emerging technologies.** This module is taught in a lecture format with short quantitative assignments being used for evaluation (30%). The basic physical principles for understanding electrical power generation will be discussed at an introductory level. This will include thermodynamic principles, electrical and mechanical systems and environmental concepts.
- 2. The economics of power generation.** The goal of this section of the course will be to show that the choice of implementation of power generating systems in our society today is predominantly made with economic cost and benefit in mind. It will show why certain types of power generation have been the preferred systems to date, and explain economic or regulatory regimes that have succeeded in fostering more diverse uses of technology. This segment of the course will be taught with lectures and guest speakers and will be evaluated (30%) based on a group project the students present, possibly in a poster session.
- 3. Power generation from a legal and human side.** This section of the course will explore the legal framework that guides our energy industry and how that affects producers in terms of regulations, licensing/permitting of power generation facilities. It will also shed some light on how our choices as a society impact our lifestyles, culture and health, and how stakeholders other than government, customers and producers interact with the process of planning, installation and operation of power generating facilities. This section of the course will be presented by guest lecturers and will be discussed in small groups. Evaluation (30%) will be based on a term paper assignment.

Prerequisites: All students registered in this course will require high school level mathematics and proven ability to write their term paper independently in English. Students in graduate programs in the three focus areas above may find one of the evaluation areas below their level of aptitude or knowledge. A small segment of the evaluation (10%) will be based on participation, and this can be strongly influenced by demonstrating leadership tutoring in a student's field of speciality.

Class Times: Thursdays, 18:30–21:30 (Section X1; Class # 43001) **Location:** Education 158
Instructor: Brian Fleck, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering

INT D 561 is an exciting opportunity for graduate students to immerse themselves in the study of energy and the environment with peers across various disciplines at the University of Alberta. The goal is for students to acquire more breadth in their graduate program through exposure to a subset of the various methodological and disciplinary approaches involved in the study of energy and the environment in general.

for more information please contact uasee@ualberta.ca or visit www.see.ualberta.ca.

**see**
SCHOOL OF ENERGY
& THE ENVIRONMENT

NEW INTER-DISCIPLINARY COURSE
School of Energy and the Environment
INT D 361: Fundamentals of Energy, Environment and Sustainability

Provides an overview of the following potential topics:

Fundamentals of conventional (e.g. coal/oil), nonconventional (e.g. oil sands/shale gas), and renewable energy (e.g. wind, solar, hydro, nuclear) sources; definitions, occurrences, amounts exploited and exploitable, as well as environmental impacts on a basic level; regulatory responses and responsibilities, ownership of resources, role of different levels of governments, as well as international obligations, environmental regulations and treaties; elementary economics related to the consumption patterns, prices, production costs, externalities, and relationship to carbon costs and intensities; special attention is paid to technologies involved in a broad sense; cultural and social drivers in each case when appropriate are discussed; concepts of sustainability for energy systems.

Class Times: Tuesdays/Thursdays 15:30–16:50 (Lecture A1; Class # 49416)
Location: Civil Engineering Building, CEB 251

Instructors: Alidad Amirfazli, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering
Murray Gingras, Associate Professor, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
Linda Nøstbakken, Assistant Professor, Marketing, Business, Economics & Law
Wayne Renke, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Law

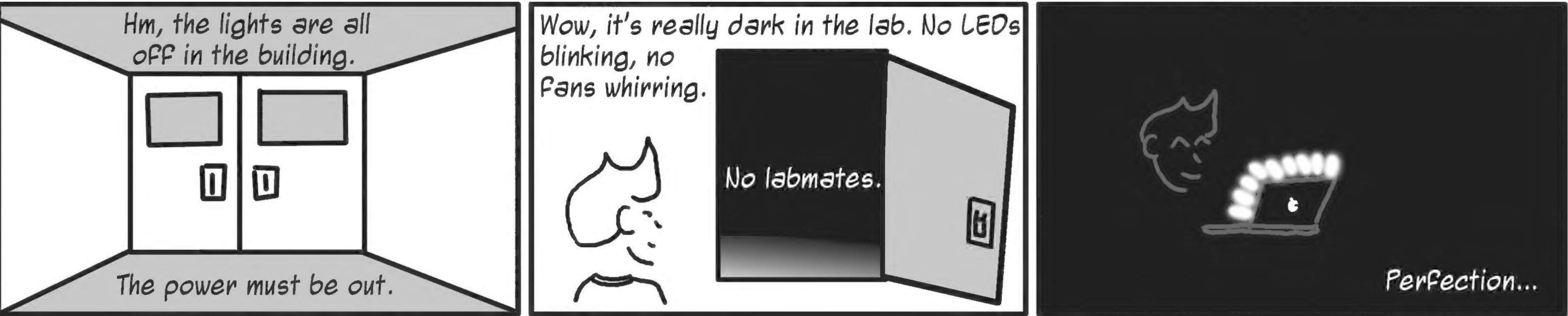
For more information, please contact the School of Energy and the Environment at uasee@ualberta.ca or visit www.see.ualberta.ca.

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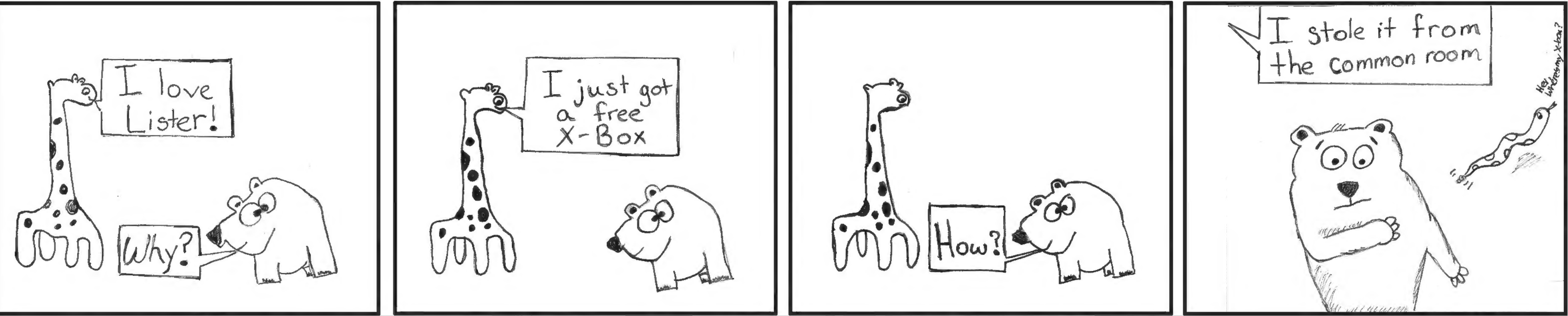
METALEETO by Ross Vincent



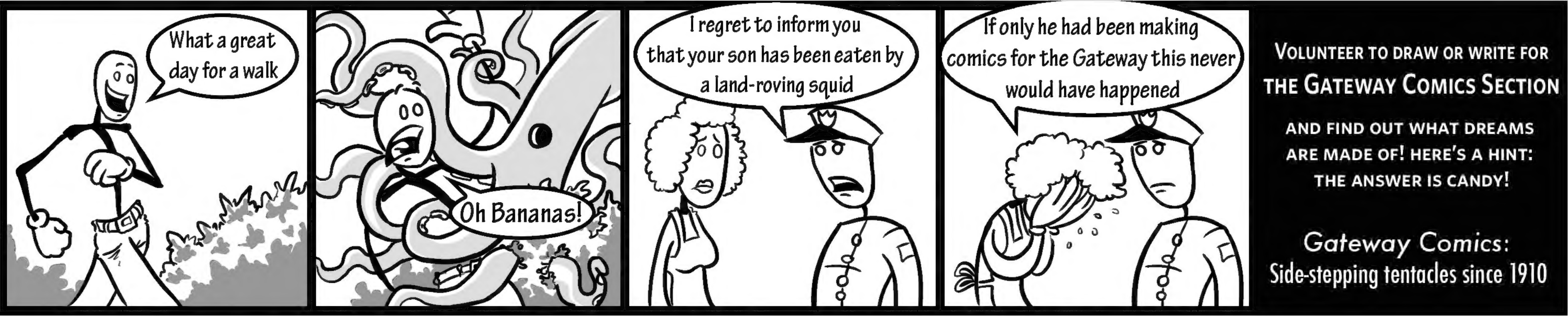
SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood



LISTER DAZE by Alex Eldridge, Matt Hirji, and Simon Yackulic



SQUID FOLLIES by Gateway Staff



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EATERY
OPEN
DURING EVENTS

Flint with Plainclothes and Keep Me Safe
Local artpunk indie kids making new noise.
Door @ 8:00pm, \$10 cover

FRIDAY
JULY 30

99 Sevens Vol. III :: GOBBLE GOBBLE
With a glow-in-the-dark 7"! Pop Echo Records
and Weird Canada presents GOBBLE GOBBLE,
ROCKTIMUS CRYME, SANS AIDS, KUMON PLAZA.
Doors @ 7:00pm, \$10 cover (first 99 receive a 7")

SUNDAY
AUG 1

Aboriginal Arts Show
All ages

THURSDAY
AUG 5